

We have been working hard to pass legislation that will bring down prices at the pump and help America end its dependence on foreign oil.

We signed into law the first vehicle fuel efficiency standards in three decades which will save drivers approximately \$1,000 a year. We passed an historic commitment to American biofuels which are keeping gas prices 15 percent lower than they would be otherwise. And House Democrats pressured Mr. Bush to stop sending oil to the government reserve, which put more oil on the market to fight rising gas prices.

This Democratic-led Congress has also passed legislation to curb excess speculation to prevent price gouging and to expand tax incentives for renewable energy.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to stop being partisan and try to move toward progress.

ENERGY PLAN

(Mr. JORDAN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, America is the greatest Nation in history with the greatest economy in history, a \$14 trillion annual economy. To remain the number one economy, we need a real energy plan, not a sham. To help families across this country, we need a real energy plan, not a sham.

Here is the Democrat plan: no real offshore drilling; no drilling in ANWR; no nuclear power; no lawsuit abuse reform; no revenue sharing with the States. But you know what is in the plan, tax increases. Think about that. At a time when we want our economy to grow, they are raising taxes. At a time when we need more oil, they are going to tax the very people who produce the oil.

This is a terrible plan. It doesn't help our economy stay number one. It won't help American families, and that is why we should vote "no" on the Democrat plan and support the Republican plan that does the right things for our country.

MCCAIN NOT AN EXPERT ON ECONOMY

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week it was difficult to tell President Bush and Senator McCain apart. On the day when the stock markets fell 500 points, President Bush described it as nothing more than an "adjustment," while Senator McCain declared the "fundamentals of our economy are strong."

Are President Bush and Senator McCain serious, or are they out of touch? What about the millions of Americans who have lost their jobs and are having trouble finding a new one simply because the Bush-McCain econ-

omy has shed 600,000 more jobs this year than they have created? What about middle class families who are worse off today than they were 8 years ago? They have seen their real wages fall over 8 years by \$300.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to economic issues, there is no difference between President Bush, Senator McCain, and former President Herbert Hoover.

AMERICA UNDERSTANDS WE ARE NOT DEVELOPING AMERICAN ENERGY

(Mr. AKIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AKIN. America by this time understands that we have not been developing American energy. There are three things required to develop American energy. First, you have to have natural resources. America is blessed with a great supply and diversity of natural resources.

The second thing you have to have to develop American energy is the technology to be able to develop energy in a scientific and an environmentally friendly way. We are very clever with our technology. We have that in America.

And the third thing that you need is political will, the desire to develop American energy; and in that regard this Congress has failed. The Pelosi Congress refuses to put the gears in motion and take action.

Now, I can understand if you like \$4 a gallon gasoline, you prefer to see it go to \$6, that is a political policy. If that is what the Democrats want to do, if that is what PELOSI wants, fine.

But what we have on the floor today is a sham. It pretends to be an energy bill and pretends to say it is going to drill, and it doesn't. It has nothing in there for clean nuclear and nothing to allow real drilling in Alaska. We have 748 sites to drill, every one blocked by a lawsuit. There is no reform in this bill. This is a sham.

AMERICA DESERVES BETTER

(Mr. FORBES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, every day on the floor and across America today, we are hearing people talk about being bipartisan. They come to the floor when they have drafted a bill improperly or they have ethics charges against them, and they plead with us with tears almost that we need to be bipartisan.

But when it comes to one of the most significant issues facing America today, energy, they don't want to be bipartisan.

Mr. Speaker, it is one thing to cut the microphone and the lights off against Republicans; but what this bill does is cut it off against scientists and

engineers and analysts who will never have an opportunity to analyze this bill and tell America what it does because it was filed last night and we will vote on it today.

When they do, this is what they are going to tell Virginians. They are going to tell Virginians that it pulled away the revenues that they could have gotten from oil drilling. They will tell Virginians that it has increased their electricity bills enormously, and it puts \$18 billion more taxes across America.

But that is okay because off the camera they are going to put their arm around us and say don't worry about it because this bill will never become law because it is just designed to give us cover in the election.

Mr. Speaker, America deserves better.

DEMOCRATS ARE TIRED OF THINKING

(Mr. REHBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, finally a Democrat bill.

Will Rogers once said a conclusion is a place where you finally got tired of thinking. It looks like the Democrat leadership has gotten tired of thinking.

They just got back from a 5-week vacation, while gas prices prevented many of their constituents from taking a vacation. I joined my Republican colleagues here in Washington, D.C. We were here every day of the week during those days with no lights, no cameras, no microphone, and no Democrats.

Last week, the first week we were back, we worked just 3 days, just 3 days, and they did not give us an energy bill.

I come from the energy State of Montana. We have oil, gas, coal, wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, and ethanol. We are part of the solution. But the Democrats are standing in our way.

Allow us an opportunity to drill for oil and dig our coal. It is time we pass a bill. After 5 weeks of vacation, another week of no energy votes, they finally come up with a 290-page energy bill that doesn't create any energy. We can only conclude the Democrats are tired of thinking.

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COMPREHENSIVE ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE ENERGY PLAN

(Mr. KLINE of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, for 5 weeks, all during the month of August and September, Republicans were on the floor of this House with the microphones off and the cameras off demanding a comprehensive all-of-the-above energy plan. We were demanding that we have open debate and